# Vaccination Vindicated,

OR AN

## *ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND,*

UPON THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF

# VACCINE INOCULATION,

WITH

## *REMARKS ON THE NECESSITY,*

IN ITS BEHALF, OF

## LEGISLATIVE AND CLERICAL INTERFERENCE,

Written with a view to remove

*Some Prejudices Inimical to its Progress,*

AND TO GUIDE THE PUBLIC TO A RIGHT CONSIDERATION OF ITS GREAT AND REAL MERITS.


## BY JAMES COOPER,

*(ONE OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.)*


"As all knowledge and wisdom must be allowed to be communicated "by the mercy of Divine Providence, for our good and protection, is "it not insolence or blasphemy in mankind to reject or decry those "means of mitigating human misery, which Heaven has imparted, and "which we ought to receive and use with humility and thankfulness. "This is a justice which cries from their dying infants, against unper- "suasible parents, who ought to have been more attentive to the means "of saving the lives entrusted to them, and which probably had been "saved by vaccination."


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1811.

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# PREFACE.

*IT might appear unnecessary, and even superfluous, to add to the number of authors who have written upon the subject of Vaccine Inoculation; and the author who presumes to augment the list of names, already too numerous, must expect to incur some censure for his presumption. On the other hand, were all men to remain silent upon a subject so important and interesting to their fellow creatures, the consequences might be worse; for they would be apt to conclude, that vaccination was a subject worthy only of minor consideration, and that, like the inoculated small-pox, it had but few admirers—that its adoption was only partial and limited, and would never become general. It may, therefore, be a pardonable error, if, in a cause so much deserving the attention and support of every philanthropist, we should err by multiplicity of authors.—As an individual, and as an advocate for so valuable a blessing, I was anxious to assist in promoting and vindicating a cause, which must afford much pleasure to every lover of humanity; and perhaps the time is not very distant, when we shall all unanimously concur to make grateful acknowledgement of a benefit, without*

*which we have no security against a disease so mortal to our species. We ardently wish, that the people of the united kingdom would more readily acknowledge and accept of a benefit, which their enemies do not hesitate to receive with avidity. Should the Jennerian advocates ultimately succeed in removing those prejudices which many parents and guardians of children possess against vaccination; and should they be so fortunate as to dissipate those groundless and unnecessary fears which too many of the lower classes of society still entertain against it, they should think themselves amply remunerated for their trouble, and would feel the inexpressible satisfaction at having rendered an essential service to suffering humanity.*

*Norwich*, 1811.

# ADDRESS.

MORE than one thousand years have now elapsed since the small-pox, introduced into and spreading its contagion throughout almost all Europe, began its most destructive career—so destructive and extensive, that scarcely a single place has escaped its baneful influence. When we read of the dreadful ravages which it has made in other parts of the world—when we consider how many millions of human lives have fallen victims to this hideous disease, we shall scarcely find one human being, sensible of its danger, who would not shudder at its name, and tremble at its approach. It is a melancholy truth to be known, that the small-pox has actually proved fatal to more than one eighth part (some say one sixth) of the human species. No one could count of his existence who had yet to contend with so powerful an adversary, against whose fatal poison no antidote was to be found. Many, though they were not the direct victims of this dreadful disease, did not long survive the shock which it gave to their tender frames, and were doomed to

pay the debt of nature at a premature age. Thus, century after century, did this mortal enemy of mankind wield the sceptre of death uncontrouled, and destroyed more human beings in a single year, than any other disease which has ever existed did, in a much longer period. About a century ago, the practice of inoculation was introduced into England, which has been a means of alleviating the miseries of thousands of our fellow creatures, though for a long time, through prejudice and ignorance, it made but little progress, and has never been only limited or partially adopted. Had its progress been rapid and general, we should not have had to lament the evils consequent to its partial adoption. Happy were they who profited by inoculation—who preferred to encounter with a disease in a mitigated and mild form, rather than incur the risk of having it in its most loathsome and malignant state, which frequently baffles every effort of medical skill, and too often triumphs over every obstacle and every art. The superiority of the inoculated over the natural small-pox cannot be disputed: but it cannot escape our notice, that the former has many disadvantages; for when a parent, anxious to preserve his children from an evil of such magnitude as the small-pox, consents to inoculation, in hopes that they may have the disease in its mildest form, and thereby rendering it less painful and dangerous, he cannot, from its contagious nature, confine it to his own family. He cannot introduce inoculation into his own family, without danger of disseminating variolous contagion amongst others. This circumstance alone I believe has deterred many conscientious parents from adopting inoculation, and has made many others scrupulous and timid, lest any

ill consequences should occur from the performance of what they considered a parental duty. Most of those who have adopted inoculation, have reason to speak of it favourably. Many who have not, (perhaps from various circumstances could not) have reason to wish that it had never been known. By the partial adoption of inoculation, the small-pox has become more general throughout the kingdom, and thousands of persons have suffered under that dreadful disease, who, had not inoculation been practiced, might probably have escaped during the whole of their lives. Thus we see the advantages and the disadvantages of inoculation. But it is neither my intention nor inclination to write a history of the natural or the inoculated small-pox.

Fortunately for mankind, a discovery has been made, by which all danger of the small-pox, and all the disadvantages of its inoculation, may be completely removed by a very simple, yet effectual process, which proves a certain preventive against that formidable and destructive disease. This important discovery—a discovery which stands unparelleled in the whole history of the healing art—a discovery which will form a new æra in the science of medicine, was announced to the world at the close of the memorable eighteenth century. Nations heard it with astonishment; and inspired with admiration, they congratulated each other with sanguine hopes, that the assertion of a discovery of an antidote against a disease so mortal to the human race, was not without truth. The first sentiment which naturally arose respecting a discovery so important, and which promised to mankind advantages so signal, was that of doubt;

for living in an age, in which so many discoveries are promulgated, and which, when put to the test of experience, have proved quite abortive and lost all their credit, many philosophical men at first viewed this with some degree of scepticism, and were not without fear lest it should have a similar fate. It appeared somewhat singular, that a disease, derived from one of our most useful domestic animals, the cow, should prove an antidote against one of the most fatal diseases of mankind. It was, however, now put to the test of experience—and experience, the touchstone of truth, soon solved the important problem.—There was no longer any room for scepticism—they could no longer doubt the truth of the assertion: experiments became general, and facts innumerable. It was now the great hope of mankind was realized! It is neither my intention nor object to enter into the history of the vaccine disease previous to the Jennerian discovery—a disease which has been known to exist from time immemorial. Suffice it to say, that this discovery, without the admirable sagacity of Jenner, might have lain dormant for ages yet to come, and that without this discovery thousands and tens of thousands of our fellow creatures would long ago have been entombed with their ancestors, who are now living witnesses of its efficacy and its power. This great discovery, to the inexpressible joy of every lover of humanity, was not (as are too many boasted discoveries of the present day, which, like shadows without substance, soon vanish to be seen no more) to be shaken in its foundation, overthrown by the slightest shock, and buried in eternal oblivion. No! It rested upon a sure and lasting foundation: it had truth for its basis, utility for its structure, and wisdom for its

support. It was like a noble edifice founded upon a rock. It had genius for its architect, science for its artificers, and philosophers for its admirers. But let us avoid speaking metaphorically. Yet how can we but behold with admiration this temple of beneficence, destined for the relief of suffering humanity? How can we avoid speaking with gratitude of its illustrious founder, born to appease the sufferings of his fellow creatures? How avoid bestowing a short panegyric upon our illustrious countryman—the most renowned Jenner? immortal Jenner!—thou who hast saved myriads of lives from the ravages of a pestilential scourge, and has rescued millions of our race from its devouring contagion, accept the homage of thy numerous tributaries, and think not we mean to offend by our modest eulogy. Yet we know there are some men, who, were they to read this eulogium, short and modest as it is, would exclaim that it was too exaggerated; nay, they would even say that our cause was inglorious. But how false and how ungenerous would be the assertion! For if that man who glories in the destruction of mankind, and who delights in the sacrifice of thousands, attains, by his achievements, the name of a hero, and excites in us admiration and respect, how much more ought we to admire and respect that man who glories in the preservation of mankind, and who delights in the sacred cause of humanity? How much in immortal fame does the latter surpass the former? How far in glory does he soar above the hero, and at what an immeasurable distance does he leave him? and if the hero, when he has closed his mortal, however splendid, career, be destined to rank with the immortals, so shall Jenner, when Jenner is no more, be destined to

immortality. But to write a long encomium upon the merits of Dr. Jenner, and his indefatigable and learned coadjutors, Drs. Pearson, Woodville, and many other equally learned men, would be quite unnecessary; that task having been so often and ably performed by so many of their numerous advocates. Yet they were the men, they were the artificers who reared that noble fabric, the glory of the universe, and the admiration of monarchs: they were the men who first explored and demonstrated the inappreciable advantages of the great vaccine discovery, and established it upon the throne of authentic experience and judicious observation.

Having shewn that the basis of our subject is truth, and its object utility, we will now proceed to enquire into the merits of vaccine inoculation, and according to the language of its opponents, its demerits. Yet in so doing let us not single out any individual or individuals, and attack them violently because they are our opponents in opinion:—no; let us, in one well-arrayed phalanx, if we must attack our opponents, attack at once their main body, and though a few of us may be unfortunately wounded by the malignant darts of some of our infatuated enemies, yet so far from that discouraging us, it will only increase our ardour and make us fight with redoubled courage. For however formidable, (though not formidable by numbers, but by art and intrigue) and however well-armed for battle our opponents may consider themselves, they should, previous to the combat, consider upon what ground they stand, what position they have taken, and at what point or points they are vulnerable; for as they cannot be ignorant

that they have to contend with myriads of foes, so they must expect to be assailed at all points at once, and in the unequal conflict be compelled to make a rapid retreat, or experience a severe defeat, and be glad to capitulate upon honourable terms. We say unequal, because we are certainly superior to our opponents in numbers, (so many of them having enlisted and are still enlisting under our victorious banners) and considering the justness of our cause, and knowing that we are armed with the shield of truth, we have not the least doubt but that we shall be found superior in our tactics. We have not the least doubt but that, however often our enemies may chuse to contend with us, they will find us, as they have hitherto done, an army invincible.—But to the subject.

Many of the anti-vaccinists have gone so far as to deny the anti-variolous power of the vaccine; others have acknowledged that it does possess such power to a certain degree, meaning to say, that it affords only a temporary security against the small-pox; and have even pretended to define the time of security afforded, which having expired, (though not to the satisfaction of the definers) they have granted another term, of equal or greater length, and to their mortification have again been disappointed in their vain expectation; so that this belief, or rather this assertion, is now entirely relinquished. Unsuccessful in this attempt to depreciate the value of vaccine, they (the anti-vaccinists) have recourse to another stratagem, that is, endeavouring to instil into the minds of their fellow creatures, particularly into the minds of the uninformed, the idea that the vaccine disease is a bestial and virulent humour, productive of scrophula,

itch, and all the loathsome cutaneous diseases imaginable; and persuading them, that should they adopt vaccination, they will one day have reason to lament ever having known the name of cow-pox. Thus taking advantage of their ignorance, and knowing well that prejudices once imbibed by the vulgar are with difficulty eradicated, they had but little doubt that they should succeed in representing a disease to them in such a light as to fill their minds with prejudice and horror at its name. That many have been deterred from adopting vaccination, from a belief of these injurious assertions, appears but too true; but some of these, ignorant as they are, who once gave credit to the false assertions of the anti-vaccinists, have since been visited by the small-pox, and now do not hesitate to pronounce these pretended friends as their enemies and as the authors of their misfortunes, acknowledging that they have paid sufficiently dear for their credulity. Alas! too dear; the life of many a beloved child has been sacrificed at the expence of the parent's credulity, who, impressed with the idea that it is contrary to the laws of humanity to have recourse to a practice represented as replete with the greatest danger, is at a loss what to do—what means to adopt for the protection of his children: equally averse to inoculation as to vaccination, he rejects both, and the innocent and helpless babes are left exposed to the baneful effluvia of small-pox; and though perhaps they may escape becoming its victims, yet they may not escape having some misfortune entailed upon them for life. But fortunately all these assertions and all these objections of our opponents are limited in their sphere; they may, it is true, as we have before said, have some influence upon the minds of the

lower classes of society, but their influence can extend no farther. A vast majority of the medical profession, a vast majority of the enlightened and benevolent throughout all Europe, (not to mention the great esteem in which vaccination is held in other parts of the world) are so completely convinced of the efficacy of the vaccine as a prophylactic against the small-pox, that they have long ceased to doubt its anti-variolous power. And will a few individuals presume to stand forth as champions, and challenge the united talents and opinions of millions of men, and not think to be censured for their presumption? Yes, say they, we will stand forth as champions and challenge the united talents of millions, and we will publicly declare, that "so far from vaccination being a blessing to mankind, it will prove to be the greatest curse." Infatuated men! Can they be so credulous as to believe that they will not, sooner or later, have to bewail their impotent presumption? Can they indulge the fond hope to combat with success this great host of philosophers? Certainly they cannot do more than they have done against the cause of vaccination, and what they have done is all in vain; but they are not to be censured unjustly; they are not to be censured because they entertain opinions contrary to their opponents. No: they have an undoubted right to state publicly their opinions and the reasons why they differ from their professional brethren; and they have an undoubted right to be heard with patience and without prejudice. But when they leave the calm dictates of reason—when they endeavour to make hypothesis pass for truth—when they forget their professional duties and write to vindicate their own characters, or to depreciate the characters of others,

instead of writing for the public good, then we say they deserve to be censured; then we say they have employed their pens not for the good but to the injury of society. I must here assure my readers that I have not the slightest animosity against any individual in existence; and I hope not to be guilty of personal invective, nor to be thought illiberal to my opponents. If I appear too warm in the cause of vaccination, it is because I bear in remembrance the false and injurious assertions of some of the anti-vaccinists, (who, in other respects, are philosophical men and proficients in the healing art) which, from what I can judge of human nature, must deeply wound their conscientious feelings.

Let us, however, hear what they have to say in favour of inoculation, and what they have to urge against the practice of vaccination. They begin with stating, that the inoculated small-pox is a mild disease, generally safe to the person inoculated, and a certain preventive against the natural small-pox—that inoculation is attended with no bad consequences whatever—that the functions of the body, whilst under its influence, seldom or ever undergo any alteration—that inoculation is never the immediate or remote cause of diseased eyes, hectic fever, blindness, scrophula, and many other diseases—the direful effects of the natural small-pox. Yet, with all its mildness—with all its advantages, they have proposed the means necessary to be taken previous to its adoption: the age and the most proper season of the year they have mentioned—the medical and dietetic treatment they have given; all which would be perfectly unnecessary were there no danger to be apprehended. Such are

the advantages represented of the inoculated small-pox. Undoubtedly, where these advantages real, parents would have no great reason to object to inoculation; but they are imaginary and fictitious, and serve only to deceive the ignorant and credulous.—Their description of the inoculated small-pox may be compared to a fine-looking picture, having many defects, yet it will still be admired by those who cannot perceive them. In their description of the inoculated small-pox they forgot to add, that it is a disease of a contagious nature, and which is, in fact, if I may be allowed the expression, only the milder representative of the natural, not possessing so much power as the latter, yet is sufficiently powerful to be formidable.

We will, however, do our opponents the justice to say, that they have united and concentrated all their intellectual powers in behalf of their favourite cause. They have even revived the doctrine of the ancients concerning temperaments, and have brought forward this ancient theory as applicable to the practice of variolous inoculation. But we cannot see its utility when applied to a contagious disease, over which we have little or no controul. We might here enter into a long detail of the arguments advanced by the supporters of this doctrine, but as they are unsatisfactory and unsubstantial, and as it would be quite foreign to our views, we will, without any reluctance, and without any wish to offend the ingenious and well-meaning authors, consign them to oblivion. We think, that so far from this doctrine being useful to the cause of vaccination, it would, on the contrary, be likely to prove injurious. It would cause parents to delay from one season to another, which delay

might be attended with the most fatal consequences. Yet we do not mean to deny its utility with respect to the practice of medicine in general. We know that the ancients considered the doctrine of temperaments as of the utmost importance, and perhaps were too much prejudiced in its favour. The moderns, on the contrary, appear to have too much neglected it. The science of phil~~oso~~logical physiognomy is a study worthy the attention of medical and philosophical men; but a knowledge of pathological physiognomy is of infinitely more importance to practical medicine. It is by a knowledge of this admirable art that a penetrating physiognomist can discover, as it were by a momentary glance of the eye, both the diagnosis and prognosis of a disease; and it is by this admirable art that he can foretel what will be its result, whether it will end in the victory or the defeat of nature. But without saying any more upon this subject, let us leave it, and hear what our opponents have to urge against the practice of vaccination:—Here again we discover their wonderful ingenuity. Much pains as they have taken to represent inoculation in colours the most attractive, equally as much pains have they taken to represent vaccination in colours the most repulsive. They (the anti-vaccinists) have endeavoured to prejudice the public against the salutary and humane practice of vaccination, by asserting that children are more subject to cutaneous eruptions (or breakings out as they are termed) after being vaccinated than before. This is a premature, we may say, a false conclusion; and their partiality will not allow them to acknowledge the same consequences to occur after inoculation, although facts, and numerous facts, have proved, beyond all doubt,

that impaired health, diseased eyes, and many other complaints have too frequently been the consequences of the inoculated small-pox. But if a case of cutaneous eruption, subsequent to vaccination, should happen to come under the observation of an inoculator, (although an interval of two or three years may have elapsed from the time of vaccination to the appearance of the eruption) he would not scruple to pronounce it as the sad consequence of the cow-pox, even should it prove to be the itch. But let us recollect, that children are subject to humours (as they are termed) whether inoculated or not—whether vaccinated or not; and because a child has been vaccinated, we are not to conclude that it will be for ever after free from cutaneous eruptions, for no person, however strong an advocate he may be for vaccination, can be so credulous as to believe that the cow-pox is an antidote against all diseases of the skin. Many ignorant or credulous persons believe that the cow-pox is liable to generate new diseases in the human constitution, and they increase rather than diminish the number of human maladies. They have been strengthened in this opinion by the false and daring assertions of some of the anti-vaccinists; but it would be absurd to countenance such an opinion. It may not be irrelevant here to remark, that the cow is one of the most healthy, and man one of the most diseased animals in the creation. Who could have thought that this animal (the cow) was destined to be the administratrix of an antidote against the greatest evil that could inflict the human race? What man, however great his genius, can say, that he ever had the remotest conception, that the Creator had designed this animal for so noble a purpose? What do I say? Noble in-

deed, to preserve the lives and increase the felicity of millions of his image! What man, even if he had had such a conception, would have dared prophetically to have exclaimed, that to this animal would be indebted, for the protraction of their existence, millions of mankind? What man will have the presumption to ask why the Creator did not unfold this great secret to preceding generations? Here our enquiries must cease, and here they ought to cease, when the omnipotent power is invoked. Let us not then despise the poor cow, which, of all domestic animals, is the one we ought the most to value and admire.

Some of Dr. Jenner's opponents seem to object to vaccination from no other reason than because his Theory of Vaccine Origin does not appear (at least to them) satisfactory: it is, they say, quite erroneous. We grant that much scepticism still exists respecting the nature and origin of cow-pox, and although Dr. Jenner's Theory is by no means satisfactory or conclusive, neither his advocates nor opponents have given one which can claim any superiority. It is true, indeed, they did not reject his Theory as being inconsistent with analogy and philosophy, without substituting a new one, which appeared *(to them)* more satisfactory and more consistent with analogy and probability. They (we here allude to some of the vaccinists) believe, or maintain, that the small-pox and the cow-pox are one and the same disease, under different modifications: this proposition is, they say, at least supported by analogy, although not by experiment. But we would ask where is the analogy? So far from any analogy between the two diseases, they are of an opposite nature. The former a contagions,

loathsome, and destructive disease; the latter, devoid of all contagion and danger, and so mild, that it scarcely deserves the name of disease. Besides, the cow is not susceptible of small-pox, either by effluvia or inoculation; how then can it be modified and divested of its contagious nature, when her habit is even unsusceptible of its action? It would be more philosophical to acknowledge our ignorance of the nature and origin of cow-pox, than to start hypotheses which are so easily overthrown. One set of experimentalists state the result of their experiments and researches to correspond with the observations of Dr. Jenner, and to confirm his opinion: another set, equally as philosophical, and equally as desirous to ascertain the truth, state that from their experiments no such phenomena occurred; that they were unable to produce the vaccine disease from the source to which Dr. Jenner attributes it; that they are convinced the vaccine is a disease *sui generis*, solely generated in the constitution of the cow, and not caused, either directly or indirectly, by the agency of the grease, or by any other deseased fluid of the horse. But this is not the place to enter into the detail of the arguments advanced by the vaccine and the anti-vaccine theorists, who are yet so divided upon this interesting subject, a subject which may long employ the genius of the speculative pathologist. If the opinion of Dr. Jenner, concerning the origin of vaccine, be false, then the opinion of the majority of vaccinists, that the disease (vaccine) originates in the cow, must be true; and if true, we are little the wiser, for its real cause and nature still remain to be explained. But are we to deny its admirable effects, or doubt its anti-variolous power, because we cannot explain the cause? As well, and with

as much reason, might we doubt the efficacy of mercury and antimony in various diseases, because we are ignorant how those powerful minerals operate to produce such wonderful changes in the human body; yet we admire and remain satisfied with their effects. We are likewise as ignorant of the origin of contagion. It is true, indeed, the moderns, as well as the ancients, have explored, though not explained the real nature, the real origin of contagion. They have dived deep, though not sufficiently deep, into this most intricate labyrinth. They have been indefatigable in their researches, and their researches have been multiplied. They have produced hypothesis after hypothesis, conjecture after conjecture, and, like their ancestors, have left the problem still unsolved. Generation may succeed to generation, and century may roll after century, before the mysterious veil be removed—before the real nature of contagion and many other desiderata in medical science, yet enveloped in the deepest obscurity, be sufficiently and satisfactorily explained. —But to return.

Let us just see the contrast between the inoculated small-pox and the cow-pox. The inoculated small-pox is frequently a severe disease, attended with considerable eruption and considerable fever, and generally requires medical and dietetic treatment, and from its contagious nature is dangerous to the community. The inoculated, as well as the natural small-pox, frequently calls into action latent diseases, which probably might otherwise never have been developed; and it may be doubted whether, in some instances, it does not (as well as the natural disease) even create a predisposition to disease where none previously

existed. To hazard such a proposition might be going too far, and might even be considered absurd. Those who may object to it will argue, that this predisposition is the natural temperament of the individual, and that it always existed, that is to say, that it existed from the birth of the individual, and that only some exciting cause was wanting to develope the predisposing cause, or in other words, to produce disease. But this is not the place to discuss this subject. I only mentioned it by way of contrast, to shew that the inoculated small-pox does not possess those innoxious qualities which the variolists would have us to believe. The cow-pox is a very mild disease, attended with but slight fever, and with only one or two vesicles, according to the number of punctures or incisions made; is not contagious, and requires no medical treatment or deviation from the usual method of living. Vaccination may be adopted at any season of the year with perfect safety even to the youngest and weakest children; and from the report of many respectable practitioners, may be adopted at the time of dentition or teething, as safe as at any other time. This some vaccinists will deny, and say, that we ought to delay vaccination while the habit is labouring under any disease, whether proceeding from teething or any other cause. We do not mean to dispute its impropriety in those cases where children suffer much sympathetic disease during the process of dentition, but we must contend for its adoption in the generality of cases. We believe that no medical man would recommend vaccination in such cases, (except under particular circumstances) not perhaps from a belief of its non-efficacy at the time of dentition, but from a fear of increasing the sufferings of the already afflicted little

patients. But we cannot agree with some medical practitioners in the non-adoption of vaccination *(sine exceptione)* during the period of dentition. The period of dentition is long, and although some children suffer much from the local irritation, (which, when considerable, may, by contiguous sympathy, produce great disorder in the general system) yet the greater part of children cut their teeth without experiencing any indisposition, or if they do, is so slight as not in the least degree to counteract the anti-variolous power of vaccine, so that it would be improper to delay vaccination because a child is teething, if it does not, at the same time, labour under any disease. When vaccination takes place, and goes through its regular stages, a few febrile symptoms appear about the ninth or tenth day, (sometimes sooner) but which portend no danger; indeed, was the fever much more severe than it generally is, there would be no other danger than the imaginary one of the tender and anxious mother, who is naturally alarmed for the safety of her child at the slightest appearance of indisposition; and was the child to die of any other disease whilst under the influence of this, she would attribute (though unjustly) its death to the effects of the cow-pox alone, and would not be prevailed upon to have a second child vaccinated, however much we might endeavour to convince her of her error. But though vaccination is a certain preventive against the small-pox, we are not to conclude that its action will prevent the constitution from being, at the same time, attacked with other diseases: if, therefore, any child (whilst under the influence of vaccine) should be attacked with some alarming disease, it will be the duty and interest of the medical attendant to apprise the

parents of the nature of the disease, and what is likely to be its result, lest, should the child die, they should attribute its death to the cow-pox, and thus bring this invaluable specific into unjust disrepute. That some such cases have occurred is unfortunately true; yet, when we consider the great number of children vaccinated, and their not being less liable to other diseases (small-pox not excepted, for a child may be previously infected with it) at that time than any other, is not at all surprising, but forms no objection against the practice of vaccination. It is the duty, as well as the interest of every medical man or vaccinator, to trace, if possible, every alledged case of failure or mischief of vaccination to its original source. Among the reported instances of failure of vaccination with subsequent variola, (small-pox) it has been found, upon minute enquiry, that a very great majority of them have originated from error. In most of the cases published there has appeared much obscurity. Many cases of supposed small-pox after cow-pox have proved to have been nothing else than varicella, or chicken-pox; but as there is some similitude between the two diseases, (at least sufficient for an inaccurate, careless, or prejudiced observer) some of the anti-vaccinists have, by an art peculiar to themselves, transformed these supposed cases into real ones, and from thence have drawn their induction. Now, in considering the subject, it is necessary to enquire into the causes of these failures, in order to prevent this most important and valuable of all discoveries from falling into disrepute through negligence or prejudice. When any alledged case occurs, we should endeavour to discover whether the vaccination was *perfect* or *imperfect*, whether its effects were *partial* or

*general*, or whether *nothing* appeared consequent to the mere performance of the operation. Whoever will give himself the trouble to make these necessary enquiries, will have the satisfaction to find (at least in the majority of cases, for some it will be impossible to trace) that the error arose not with the disease, but with the reporter; he will find, that no case of failure has in reality occurred, and that no mischief has arisen from the effects of vaccination; he will find, that every alledged case of failure or mischief may be traced to be owing to some mis-statement of facts, or to some irregularity in the progress of the disease, (perhaps caused by accident or mis-management) by which the promised security has not been given: for if the disease does not pass regularly through its proper stages, its effects upon the constitution can be only partial and imperfect; consequently the child is as liable to contract the small-pox as if it had never been vaccinated at all. The anti-vaccinists may accuse me of partiality, in not admitting a single case of exception with respect to the security of vaccination. They will ask, "is there no instance upon record in which the perfect vaccine has failed to secure the constitution from future attack of variola (small-pox)?" To which question I shall make the same answer as they would when questioned as to the infallibility of variolous inoculation. They will ask, "are not many of the obstinate cases of cutaneous eruption which have appeared in children, subsequent to vaccination, to be attributed to the effects of the cow-pox? Is not the number of cutaneous diseases increased, and has not health been impaired? Have no new diseases appeared since the practice of vaccination?" To these questions experienced vaccinators

will reply in the negative. They will say, and say with truth, that no cutaneous disease has appeared which was not known and accurately described long before the practice of vaccination was in vogue. Yet they will not presume to say, that children are less liable to cutaneous diseases because they have been vaccinated; but they will not admit that they are the more liable. The vaccinists will not admit vaccination to be a cause of such diseases; for it is well known that they existed long before vaccination was practised; and, moreover, it is well known (by the most accurate observations) that the number of cutaneous diseases has *not* increased. Since the discovery of vaccination, the anti-vaccinists have set aside both the unknown and acknowledged causes of cutaneous eruptions, and have substituted vaccination as their general cause. Vaccination will be found a very convenient word for the anti-vaccinists, when called upon to explain the cause and nature of many cutaneous diseases, and will save them the trouble of a nicer nosology. They will have, henceforth, little occasion to consult the accurate Willan upon the diseases of the skin, or any other celebrated writer in that department of medicine.

It may not be deemed superfluous to add, that in every case of deviation from the regular progress of the vaccine vesicle, we ought, without loss of time, to have recourse to re-vaccination.

The author of a French Work, entitled Cours D'Etudes Medicales, after discussing the merits of vaccination, and giving an accurate description of the progress of the vaccine vesicle, makes the following

satisfactory conclusion:—"Il n'y a pas un seul exemple de variole survenue chez un individu vacciné, malgré les tentatives faites à dessein, soit par l'inoculation, soit par la cohabitation avec des variolés, en sorte que l'efficacite de la vaccine, comme préservatif de la petite vérole, ne peut plus être en do ute."

It has been, and I believe still is the opinion of some medical men, that the vaccine is not only efficacious in preventing the small-pox, but likewise in curing some other diseases of the human body. We have the authority of some very eminent practitioners, that it has been found particularly serviceable in scrophula and hooping-cough. It is our ardent wish, that it may answer their most sanguine expectations. But let us not be too confident; let us not determine by probability, nor be deceived by appearances. It is only by a multitude of experiments and accurate observations that we can determine facts. With respect to its utility in hooping-cough, they do not presume to say that it acts as a preventive, nor that it directly cures the disease; but that in some severe cases, it has certainly produced considerable palliative effects, in mitigating its severity and shortening its duration. Practitioners ought not to be deterred from vaccinating children labouring under the hooping-cough; they ought, on the contrary, to urge its adoption. Among the number of children whom I have vaccinated gratis (though I am no medical practitioner, but a mere theorist) were two labouring under that disease; but it being so mild, and the usual medicines being employed, I cannot say positively whether the vaccine, even when at its acme or height, had any influence upon the disease or not; but am inclined to

believe, that in these two cases it acted only (if acted at all) as a slight and temporary palliative, and that it did *not* shorten the duration of the disease. Some of my readers may think me presumptuous, after bringing forward respectable authority to prove the utility of vaccination in hooping-cough, to immediately state cases which appear to make it doubtful, or at least, which do not strengthen the fact. I only mention the cases as they appeared to me, and though in mild cases we may not discover the utility of vaccination, yet in severe ones it may appear very manifest, according to the observations of the before-mentioned practitioners. I do not doubt but that there are some practitioners who condemn the practice of vaccinating children labouring under the hooping-cough, and many other diseases to which they are liable, from a belief, that if any disease be present in the habit when vaccination is performed, the vaccine is not only liable to be impeded in its progress (by the local or constitutional effects of the existing disease) but likewise to be rendered quite abortive, and the constitution left still susceptible of the small-pox. But although there are many diseases in which it would be very improper to vaccinate, yet there are others which, according to the report of the most experienced vaccinators, so far from counteracting or impeding the progress of the vaccine, are much benefited by its action, and some have been completely cured by it. There are many chronic eruptions to which children are subject, and when they have had the vaccine previous to their appearance, it has been erroneously considered (by partial or prejudiced judges) as the cause of them. The report of the Central Society of Vaccination, established at Paris, fully confirms that

made by the English vaccinists with respect to the anti-variolous power of the vaccine, and its utility in other diseases as well as the small-pox, as may be seen in the following lines :—"Apres six ans d'experience en France, il reste toujours constant que cette précieuse methode bien employée, n'a rien de nuisible ni de dangereux: et que la vraie vaccine preserve de la petite vérole, et qu'en outre elle est encore utile dans plusiéurs cas d'infirmités et de maladies." And in the report, made by the same committee in 1808, we read with pleasure the following satisfactory account of the progress of vaccination in France;—Dans le sèance génerale de la Société de Vaccine, du 28 a oût 1808, M. Husson, a fait, au nom du comite central, le rapport sur les vaccinations pratiqués en France en 1806 et 1807. Il résulte de ce rapport, que la comité central evalue à 600,000 le total des individus vaccines en 1806 et 1807. Vide archives des Découvertes et Inventions nouv. faites en 1808. a Paris 1809.

However scrupulous parents may be about having their children vaccinated while labouring under hooping-cough, or any other disease considered incapable of counteracting the effects of the vaccine, they ought, should the small-pox be prevalent, or suddenly make its appearance in the neighbourhood, immediately to adopt vaccination; for let the disease present in the system be what it may, one thing is certain, that the vaccine will not increase its severity; and if, on the contrary, the disease should be one which does not counteract the effects of the vaccine, the constitution will be happily preserved from the small-pox. I have the satisfaction to say, that all the children whom I have vaccinated remain proof against the small-pox,

although they have frequently been exposed, and even in actual contact with its effluvia. Nothing has occurred from vaccination which has in the least degree shaken the parents' confidence, who remain perfectly satisfied with its good effects. I have generally made it a practice, (though perhaps not to be approved of) after children have been vaccinated some time, and when the vaccine has appeared perfect, (i. e. has corresponded with the Jennerian description) to vaccinate them, in preference to inoculating them, when parents have demanded a criterion by which they might be certain whether or not their children were secure from danger of the small-pox; and have found on the second or third day after vaccination, a slight redness in the part punctured, which has generally disappeared in three or four days, and nearly the same effect has occurred as often as the operation has been repeated. I have, however, observed in some children who have previously had the genuine vaccine, the formation of a small irregular vesicle from a second vaccination, but which has not increased beyond the fifth or sixth day, and after that time has died away, and in two or three days has entirely disappeared. But the formation of a local or irregular vesicle, as well as the redness or slight inflammation, which is in general the consequence of a second vaccination, in persons who have had the vaccine corresponding with Dr. Jenner's description, may be considered as a sure test that the habit is unsusceptible of the constitutional small-pox, whether exposed to its effluvia or inoculated with its virus. It may be observed that the stimulus of vaccine, like the stimulus of many contagious diseases, is incapable of producing in the constitution a similar disease more than once; yet each of these stimuli (however often ap-

plied) is capable of producing in the part to which it is applied a local irritation, with, in general, a slight local inflammation, though incapable of producing any general disease, or any organic derangement of the system. We do not presume to say there are no exceptions to this law of the animal economy. Undoubtedly, among the multitude of human beings, there are some individuals whose system is twice (or perhaps more) susceptible of the same contagious disease; for instance, of the small-pox, many cases of which have placed the fact beyond all doubt. There are other individuals of peculiar idiosyncrasy, in whom the sensitive irritation produced by these stimuli is so considerable as to produce general disorder of the system, although the disease (caused by each respective stimulus) is only partially developed; and we may observe, that each of these individuals is a focus of contagion, capable of communicating (by his partial disease) either by inoculation or effluvia, the general or perfect disease to those who have not been previously affected with it. We must here except vaccina, which is communicable only by actual insertion, and must be perfect to produce perfect vaccination. I have met with two patients in whom, after having been vaccinated some days, and who appeared afterwards to have been previously infected with the measles, the progress of the vaccine was suspended till the measles had run their course, and that then the vaccine passed regularly through its remaining periods. It may be observed, that as soon as this disease (measles) began to develope itself, the vaccine, although it had made considerable progress, was immediately suspended, and did not resume its course till the effects of the measles had ceased. Being doubtful whether these

persons were secure from future attack of variola, (small-pox) I did, after the elapse of a month, re-vaccinate them, and found only partial effects were produced, similar to the effects observed in persons re-vaccinated, who have had the perfect or genuine vaccine. Vaccination was repeated several times, but without producing any other effects than a slight irritation and redness in the part punctured: hence I conclude, that although the vaccine was much impeded in its progress by the supervention of the measles, that the vaccine produced its proper anti-variolous effects, and that the patients are perfectly secure from future attack of small-pox. It may be observed, that if the human system in general was liable to repeated attacks of the small-pox, measles, and some other contagious diseases, the existence of mankind would not only be the most precarious, but the most miserable of all created beings. But fortunately, by a wise provision of nature, our system, when it has once undergone certain morbific changes produced by these respective diseases, presents a barrier to their future intrusion, and we no longer remain in doubt as to our security. We here speak of those diseases which have been considered the natural and certain concomitants of our existence, as the hooping-cough, small-pox, chicken-pox, and measles. But to return.

It is certain, that no person can have (or at least has yet had) the cow-pox twice constitutionally, and that no person, having had the small-pox, can be afterwards constitutionally affected by cow-pox. I should not have repeated what has been so often said and proved, did not some people still believe that it is possible to have the cow-pox more than once, and that

persons having had the small-pox, are still constitutionally susceptible of the cow-pox.

It is a plan with some medical practitioners to put children, who have been vaccinated, to the proof of small-pox by inoculating them. This plan, though very satisfactory both to the practitioner and the parents of the children, is certainly objectionable, since it cannot be practised with impunity, for where there is a particle of small-pox virus, there is a focus of contagion, even dangerous to the community. We would therefore recommend re-vaccination by way of a criterion, in preference to inoculation.

We wish some means were taken to render the practice of vaccination more general throughout the united kingdom. In order to forward this, the first step necessary to be taken, is to establish some vaccine depôt in every principal town and city in the united kingdom, to be supported by the inhabitants of the respective places by subscription, which, if conducted (and it certainly may) upon a good, yet œconomical plan, would be very trifling. By this means, the blessing of vaccination may be distributed to the poor gratis; and it will be then, and not till then, that we may expect to see the practice of vaccination become generally adopted; for it is well known that the poor have neither the power nor inclination to purchase a benefit, where even the smallest retribution is required of them. The second step (equally as important as the first) necessary to be taken is, to prohibit small-pox inoculation, which, in many places, is still actively continued. But as long as the legislature will not interfere and put a stop to the practice of inoculation,

as long as many of the advocates for vaccination continue to *inoculate* as well as vaccinate, so long must the small-pox exist amongst us—so long must there be a focus of contagion, ever ready to display its baneful influence, and destroy all hopes of completely eradicating that disease. Some of my readers may doubt the veracity of my assertion, when I say, that many vaccinators inoculate as well as vaccinate; but truth compels me to say, that many Jennerian advocates do not scruple to inoculate children at the request of parents, leaving it to their option to adopt which they please. This is a practice highly culpable; it is (I had nearly said) a crime bordering upon homicide, to disseminate disease and death, and thus consign our fellow-creatures to miseries which we have power to avoid. When a practitioner cannot, by fair and rational argument, prevail upon parents to adopt vaccination, he ought, by no means, should they require to have their children inoculated, comply with their request; for he cannot be ignorant, that one person inoculated may be the means of spreading the contagion of small-pox throughout a whole city, or even a whole country.

Grex totus in agris unius scabie cadit et porrigine porci. JUV.

It were much to be wished that we had been as active in extending the blessing of vaccination throughout our own country as we have been to extend it throughout every other. No sooner was this grand discovery made known in England, than means were taken to make it known throughout every quarter of the globe. One messenger is dispatched across the

Atlantic to convey the joyful tidings to the inhabitants of America. Another directs his course to the continent of Europe, where he is received as welcome as would be a messenger of peace. A third pursues his course and debarks upon the coast of Africa, whose natives salute and receive him as a deliverer. A fourth traverses the deep, and at last reaches the borders of Asia, and there unfolds the glorious object of his mission. Thus, comparatively speaking, have all the inhabitants of the world, whether friends or foes, whether civilized or uncivilized, all alike, have been made participators of this great blessing, and all alike have proclaimed the English nation as the arbiter of mercy and goodness. We hope pure philanthropy, and not policy alone, was the motive of our benevolence; for it is well known there are few nations, however liberal and enlightened they may be, that do not too much consult this political agent. Let us, as we wish to appear pre-eminent in philanthropy and rank with enlightened nations, let us, I say, extend our benefits to the remotest regions, and let the inhabitants thereof proclaim us as their noble benefactors; but let us not deny to generous Britons that protection which it is our boast to offer to foreign allies, and even to our most inveterate enemies: let all the nations of the universe alike partake of the astonishing antidote, and let all of them render homage due to its illustrious discoverer. O! England! England; thou who hast claimed the pre-eminence of philanthropy, and hast added to thy charms the epithet of "enlightened," canst thou behold with indifference the wants of thy people? Canst thou hear the cries of the oppressed, and not be moved with compassion? Canst thou be sensible of the regrets of disconsolate widows and father-

less children, and not sympathise with them in their calamities? Hast thou forgotten the great sacrifices which thy people have made for the preservation and security of thy monarchy? Hast thou forgotten how nobly thy soldiers have fought and bled in thy defence? Hast thou forgotten, that had it not been for thy noble defenders, thou mightest, ere now, have been in the hands of an inveterate enemy? Surely thou canst not be devoid of gratitude to a people who have thus protected thee. Surely if it be in thy power to atone for sacrifices so great, thou wilt cheerfully exert it for the preservation of the sons and daughters of Albion.

If we take a view of the continental nations of Europe, we shall find that each nation acknowledges the importance of the subject; and that each has profited by the great discovery of the immortal Jenner. We shall find that each nation considers it important, as well in a political as in a moral view: that each seems anxious to retrieve the almost irretrievable losses occasioned by continual political tempests; and that each seems, as it were, striving to fill up the immense vacuum which the ravages of a detestable and ever-existing war has produced throughout almost the whole continent of Europe. And ought not England, their once favourite ally, and who hath so often braved and shared with them the same dangers, ought she not to consider the subject in the same light? Ought she not to strive to retrieve the losses sustained by the murderous and continued conflict? But how can she retrieve losses irretrievable? How make atonement to the relatives of her slaughtered martyrs? How indemnify the disconsolate widow for the loss of an affectionate husband? or the fatherless child for the loss of

its parent? The only atonement which England can make to her people for the immense sacrifice of lives which a most sanguinary war has cost her, is a general diffusion of this inestimable gift from the centre to the circumference of her empire. It is by a general diffusion of this inestimable gift that she may annually preserve the lives of thousands and tens of thousands of her children, who must otherwise become the victims of disease and death. And will a nation, that presumes to stand on the pinnacle of philanthropy, not acknowledge how much more noble is the action to save than destroy? Will she not acknowledge that the saving of thousands of human lives from a cruel death is an object worthy of her sanction, when sanctioned by her paternal parent, and the most illustrious of her sons? Great as are the numbers who have annually fallen victims to the sword, greater still are the numbers who have fallen victims to an enemy more destructive. For what enemy can be more destructive than the small-pox? What disease in the whole catalogue of diseases have mankind more reason to dread than this? yet what disease can be more easily prevented, as thousands have happily experienced? Were parents to view the important subject of vaccination in its proper light, instead of giving credit to the false and cruel statements manufactured by its opponents, they would contribute much to their own happiness, as well as to the happiness and welfare of their posterity. Were many parents to reflect for a moment what they themselves have suffered by the small-pox, or were they to call to their recollection the sufferings of many a departed relative or friend, they would be ready to exclaim, "unfortunately for us, we have lived too early to enjoy the benefits of

this precious discovery; but fortunately for our children, they have lived to enjoy its benefits, and to be strangers to a disease which claims our sympathy." The history of the ravages committed by the small-pox, even in our own time, is truly distressing to read. What a spectacle of human misery could we depict! What tragic scenes could we unfold! What a catalogue of human calamities could we produce, to shew the tyranny and dominion of this cruel enemy over the human race! How many instances have we seen, where the husband and wife, just entering the career of domestic happiness, living in the most mutual affection, surveying with exquisite delight their lovely progeny, the husband hath been suddenly torn from his amiable spouse, and she left with her fatherless babes to draw out a long and miserable existence, with no other consolation than the remembrance of one who possessed all the qualities necessary in a man for a state of conjugal felicity—of one who hath left her an endearing posterity! How many instances have we seen where the most affectionate wife, the most tender mother, watching with fond solicitude the welfare of her little ones, discharging with integrity the important duties of her trust, hath been suddenly torn from her husband, and he left with his motherless babes to complete the number of his days in almost insufferable misery, while the once beloved partner of his life is mouldering in the tomb! What a heart-rending situation for a man is this! Deprived of the most valuable of all earthly treasures, viewing with commiserating eyes his now half-protected babes, he hath no other consolation left than the remembrance of having lived in perfect unison with one who was the delight of his life—with one who had shared with

him a transitory enjoyment of the most exalted happiness. This is the only consoling balm which he hath to palliate the deep wounds of his soul—wounds which can neither be cicatrized nor healed.

Such are the calamities which mankind have suffered by the small-pox for many generations, for many centuries. But now that Providence hath sent us an antidote, now that we have it in our power to resist a cruel enemy, shall we any longer suffer him to triumph over human misfortune? Shall we any longer suffer him to reign amongst us? Shall we suffer our descendants to share the fate of their ancestors? Shall we withhold from our posterity the boon which Providence hath sent to preserve them? If we do, we shall both offend the Deity and violate the laws of humanity. You who are parents, and who ought as parents to value the lives and the health of your children, hearken to the voice of reason, and let prejudice and incredulity vanish before her: that enlightened preceptress will teach you, that you are in duty bound, by the laws of morality, to protect your children from every surrounding danger, from every impending evil, and when remediable, to apply the remedy. The health and the beauty of your offspring are generally objects of your first consideration, and there are few among you who will not make considerable sacrifices in hopes to attain them. Let us tell you, that you have but a small sacrifice to make to be in possession of a benefit which will preserve your children from that dreadful disease—the small-pox; and should you deny to them this inestimable gift, you will certainly be guilty of a breach of humanity, and may one day suffer painful remorse for having rejected a

boon so providentially offered you. What motive can induce you to withhold from your fellow creatures the greatest blessing which they can possess? Why are you so reluctant to administer the noble antidote, the great preserver of the human race? What can be dearer to you than the lives and the health of your children? What sacrifice would you not, or rather, what sacrifice ought you not to make for their preservation? With what infinite pleasure do you behold the fruits of your conjugal affection! Seated in the midst of a numerous and tender offspring, you seem to vie with each other in paternal and maternal care; each alike seems anxious to discharge the duties assigned to you by nature; happiness and tranquillity seem to dwell amongst you. But alas! how transitory is your happiness! How soon will the beautiful horizon of your hopes be obscured by a cloud! How soon will a storm, unforeseen, obscure the delightful rays of your happiness, if not extinguish them for ever! A terrible calamity awaits you; direful tidings reach your ears; a mortal enemy is near at hand; and those tender babes, the objects of your love and admiration, innocent of the danger which surrounds them, are now doomed to become the victims of disease or death, and you are destined to become the victims of despair. The infant babe, torn from the breast of its disconsolate mother, is cut off almost in the beginning of its existence. Another is grievously wounded, yet survives the contest, who was once the flower of your little flock, and whose countenance was once the emblem of health and beauty, but which now, to the misfortune of the innocent sufferer, no longer represents the image of either. A third, deprived of the use of the precious organ of

vision, is doomed to live a miserable life in darkness, to become a burthen to his friends, an object of pity, who, had he not been the victim of this misfortune, might have become a useful member, and perhaps an ornament to society. What a melancholy scene! which thousands of parents to their inexpressible sorrow have seen realized! What must be the thoughts, what must be the feelings of a parent who hath witnessed such a tragic scene! What must be the thoughts, what must be the feelings of a tender mother, overwhelmed with inexpressible sorrow, who hath to deplore the loss, the irretrievable loss of a child, perhaps an only child, her only hopes, consigned by disease to a premature death! Such are the direful effects of the small-pox; such are the direful effects of your prejudice and incredulity. Could you behold with commiserating eyes the helpless babe mortally wounded and struggling with the agony of death, and exclaim, you were not the authors of your darling's affliction, you were not the cause of its premature departure? Why did you not, when it was in your power, extend the arm of aid, and rescue your babe from a merciless enemy? Can you reflect on this breach of humanity, and not suffer painful remorse? You could not exclaim in the language of your ancestors, and say, you knew of no antidote. They had the bane, but not the antidote. You had the antidote, but, so cruel, would not administer it. What plea can you make for having rejected the boon which Providence had offered you? But I mean not to wound the feelings of such unfortunate parents; I mean not to accuse them of infanticide; no, I only mean to say, that, by a mistaken tenderness for their children, they have sacrificed their lives to a disease

which it was in their power to have prevented. For such unfortunate parents I feel much; but for the unfortunate victims I feel much more, when I think that the little innocents, who now repose in the tomb, might have been rescued from the cruel sceptre of death, and have lived to an age in which they might have become useful members of society; to an age in which they might have become the comfort and the prop of their aged parents. Neither do I mean to offend my readers by severity of language; but, should they complain on this point, I must (though reluctantly) retort upon them, and say, that the importance of the subject demanded it; for when we consider that the small-pox is an evil of the greatest magnitude, and when we know that we are in possession of an antidote, it is both criminal and inhuman not to apply it. It is really astonishing how parents, knowing the advantages of vaccination, and the disadvantages of inoculation, can hesitate one moment to adopt the former, and reject the latter. But not content with denying to their children the benefits of this inestimable gift, and thereby preserving them from the ravages of a pestilential disease, they have deigned to load it with reproach, and to consider it as an evil rather than a blessing to mankind. How different is the language of those who have accepted with grateful acknowledgment of the great benefit! How many millions of the human race who had once cause to dread the approach of their adversary, may now sit in his presence and shake hands with the monster with impunity! They have now a noble protector; they are now armed with the grand specific; they are now as it were invulnerable: let the enemy commence hostilities whenever he pleases; let him become the

assailant, and assail them on every side; let him advance with rapid strides, and let his aspect be most terrific. Armed with an impenetrable shield, they may step forth to meet him undismayed, and, with an air of triumph and disdain, bid defiance to the power of the tyrannical monster. But let us adopt a more simple language.

We exhort every parent to set aside prejudice and follow the example of the enlightened and benevolent in all nations, who have so readily accepted of the benefits of this precious discovery, and whose gratitude has loaded the discoverer with praises and honors innumerable. We are convinced that no parent, who will judge and speak impartially, can attribute one single ill-effect to the cow-pox, or mention one single disadvantage which it possesses. No, if he will judge and speak impartially, he will generously acknowledge the great pre-eminence which it possesses over the inoculated small-pox, and will become (as thousands have since done, who once, to their now unavailable sorrow, turned a deaf ear to the voice of reason and denied the utility of vaccine) a strong and warm advocate for vaccination.

My readers may think I have dwelt too long upon this subject, and attached more importance to it than it actually deserves. But if we consider for a moment the great mortality of the small-pox prior to the Jennerian discovery, we shall think that it has been, as yet, considered too lightly. If we consider, that in Europe alone, for many centuries, more than half a million souls have annually fallen victims to the small-pox, surely we must think that the saving of myriads of

human lives from so dreadful a calamity, by an art so innocent and so simple, demands our most serious consideration. Let us admire the art because of its simplicity. Let us admire an art which saves as much as we despise an art which destroys the lives of our fellow creatures. Let us save an art which has saved, and which will still save millions of the human race from the ravages of a pestilential disease, which has ever been the terror and the scourge of mankind.

Notwithstanding the time which has elapsed since the Jennerian discovery, vaccination has not made that progress in this country (where it originated) which it might and ought to have done. May not this be attributed partly to the non-interference of the legislature—to their not having taken the means necessary for its promotion;—partly to the indifference with which many vaccine advocates plead the cause of vaccination, who seem to possess a kind of neutrality, or rather, to vindicate the cause of vaccination or inoculation, as it may best suit their interest. We here allude to those who practice both vaccination and inoculation, whom we must consider rather the enemies than the friends of vaccination; but their motive is easily explained. In France, Germany, and every country on the continent, vaccination has made a much greater progress than in England. It has, indeed, made so great a progress, that for a long time it has been universally adopted by all classes of society—from the noblest prince to the meanest subject. From this part of the world we hear of no failures of vaccination—no mischievous effects—no generation of new diseases—no, fortunately for mankind, all these evils are imaginary, and originate from the

fertile imagination of the English anti-vaccinists, and from thence only. From other parts of the world, where mankind are elated with the glorious prospect of the speedy annihilation of the small-pox, we hear the most satisfactory accounts of Jenner's astonishing antidote. Had we been as active and vigilant as we ought to have been, we should have had the most promising prospect of the total and speedy annihilation of the small-pox in our own country. The reason why vaccination has made so great a progress on the continent, may be attributed, in a great measure, to the active interference of the legislators, who have abolished the practice of small-pox inoculation under the severest penalties. It may be attributed partly to clerical influence, which, on the continent, has been much exerted to promote the cause of vaccination. We have every reason to believe, that by clerical influence, the cause of vaccination might be much benefited in our own country; for it is well known that thousands of the lower orders of society still object to its adoption principally from religious scruples, which it is the duty, and in the power of the clergy alone, to remove or rectify. As a proof of the utility of legislative interference in promoting the progress of vaccination, we have only to read the following account, extracted from a French paper, which will at once convince us of the good effects with which it has been attended in France.

*Office of Minister of the Interior Central Committee of the Vaccine Institution at Paris.*

Ten years of labour and success have at length decided the important question as to the vaccine possessing the power of preserving all those in whom it

has regularly gone through its progress from the small-pox. This has been carried to such a degree of certainty by the experiments of the Central Committee, and its numerous correspondents, as well Frenchmen as strangers, that there is not at present any fact in medicine better proved, or more certain, than that which establishes the truly *anti-variolous* power of the vaccine.

His majesty the emperor &king, to whom the different reports of the central committee have been presented, has been sensible of the advantages which would result from the general propagation of the new inoculation. His majesty has seen the preservation and increase of the population of his vast empire, immediately connected with the adoption of this method. He has had an account rendered to him of the obstacles which, in some districts, might yet oppose its progress, and has found that these consisted principally in the great difficulty of procuring and preserving the vaccine fluid; in consequence, his majesty wishing to give his people a signal mark of his paternal solicitude, has granted to his excellency the minister of the interior an annual and special credit, destined to provide for the expences for extending the practice. He has formed, in twenty-four of the principal cities of France, depots of the vaccine fluid, where every one who wishes to practice vaccination may be sure of always finding disposable matter. These are, Besançon, Bordeaux, Brussels, Caen, Clement-Ferrand, Dijon, Florence, Lisle, Lyons, Marseilles, Ments, Montpellier, Nancy, Nantes, Orleans, Parma, Rheims, Rennes, Rouen, Saintes, Strasbourg, Thoulouse, Tours, and Turin.

His majesty has further created a vaccine committee at each of these depots, and has preserved to the central committee, established near his excellency the minister of the interior, its original organization, in charging it with the central depot of Paris.

In conclusion, his Majesty has appointed, by his decree of the 6th Nov. last, annual rewards for those who shall have performed the greatest number of operations—collected the most important facts—overcome most obstacles—and arrested the course of variolous epidemics. These rewards have been so distributed that every effort has been noticed, and every labour proportionally recompensed.

They are thus determined:—1st, a prize of 3000 francs; 2d, two prizes of 2000 francs; 3d, three prizes of 1000 francs; and 4th, a hundred silver medals, bearing the head of the emperor. These powerful motives always to keep up and preserve the vaccine fluid; this energetic incentive to an emulation which must direct all the efforts of the practitioners towards a rapid propagation of the vaccine, leads to the hope that the public communication of his Majesty's benevolent intentions will be sufficient to give a general impulse in favor of the new method, and banish in a few years that scourge, the small-pox, from the French territory.

Already the returns of the mortality in the city of Paris, for the year 1809, exhibit only 213 deaths by small-pox. This number, though yet too considerable, since the vaccine offered to these 213 victims a certain method of preservation, is yet extremely small

in comparison of that of some years, when the epidemic small-pox has carried off, in the same city, more than 20,000 individuals. The committee does not hesitate to attribute this diminution of mortality to the zeal with which the different members who compose it have extended the practice in the large establishments to which they are attached, as physicians and surgeons; and lastly, to the conspicuous exertions of Messieurs the Counsellors of State, the prefects of the seine and police, the mayors and their assistants, who have always seconded the committee with the greatest zeal, and in many instances anticipated its intentions.

Every good man, and every friend to mankind, may hope then, that the new measures taken by his Majesty will at length effect that which the labours of the Committee have long led them to expect.—There is reason to believe, that they will so stimulate the emulation of all physicians and surgeons, that very shortly the small-pox, already unknown in many departments, where the zeal of the prefects has been such that there remain none to vaccinate but the infants born in every year, will entirely disappear from France, as the leprosy has done, of which no traces are found, except in the history of the worst-governed ages of our Monarchy.

The Committee embraces this opportunity of reminding the public, that the central establishment of the vaccine, founded the 7th of February, 1801, and situated in No. 1, Rue du Battoir, St. Andre des Arcs, is still carried on; that vaccination is practised gratuitously there every Tuesday and Saturday, at

noon; that the children of the poor are admitted gratuitously during the course of the vaccine; and that application for vaccine fluid should be addressed under cover to his Excellency, to M. Husson, Physician of the Hotel Dieu and of the Imperial Lyceum, Secretary to the Committee.

Given at the sitting of the 11th of May, 1810, the day of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Committee.

Signed by all the Members—Duchanoy, *President;* Corvisart, Delasteyrie, Doussin, Dubreuil, Guillotin, Hall, Hazard, Jadelot, J. J. Leroux, Marin, Mongenot, Parfait, Pinel, Salmade, Thouret.—Husson, *Secretary.*

*Vide Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal, No. XXV.*

By this extract we learn that the French Legislature has adopted every measure necessary for the promotion and encouragement of vaccination; that it has removed nearly every obstacle that impeded its progress; and that it has brought this new inoculation in France almost to universality. If we compare the number of deaths by the small-pox in the city of Paris with the number of deaths by the same disease in the city of London, in the same given time, and making allowance for the difference in the population of the two cities, we shall find that the difference in the number of deaths in the latter city is in the ratio of 6 to 1. This is a melancholy but a true statement—it shews that the French Legislature has adopted the most vigorous measures in behalf of vaccination, and that we have not. It shews the necessity, the great

necessity of legislative interference, and that it is in vain to look for the general adoption of vaccination without it. And while we rejoice, that the lives of thousands of our enemies have been preserved through the generosity of England, we lament, that thousands of her own subjects have fallen victims through her indolence. We say through indolence, for we know not to what other cause to attribute it. We know that the British Legislature possesses authority adequate to the adoption and execution of all measures necessary for the welfare of the people; and why it has not adopted a measure to prevent the dissemination of a most fatal disease, (small-pox) which has, within the last three years, occasioned more than 60,000 deaths in the United Kingdom, we will not presume to say. Thrice has the subject of vaccination been laid before the House of Commons, and we sincerely hope that it will once more come under its consideration.

I some time ago read with much pleasure the following advertisement, inserted in the various London and provincial newspapers.

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT,
21, *Leicester Square.*

"THIS Establishment having been formed under the direction of his Majesty's Government, the Board thereof, consisting of the President and Censors of the Royal College of Physicians, and the Master and Governors of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London, anxious to promote his Majesty's benevolent intention, make known to the public, that they are ready to furnish the proper Vaccine Matter, and to give their assistance to Practitioners in every part of

the United Kingdom; and they further invite any communication which may be deemed important on the subject.

"Letters from the Country, to be addressed to the National Vaccine Establishment, under cover to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Whitehall.

"By Order of the Board,

"*CHARLES MURRAY, Secretary.*"

Equally as much pleasure would it be to the friends of vaccination, to read of "An Act for abolishing the practice of Small-pox Inoculation throughout the United Kingdom."

We have not the least doubt that, was a petition laid before the British Parliament, praying the abolishment of this injurious practice, it would be immediately carried, to the great satisfaction of the friends of science and humanity. Probably there may be some individuals, and those not actuated by any personal interest, who might consider such a measure, if taken, very improper, as being more likely to prove injurious than beneficial to the public welfare.

To this opinion we cannot assent from a belief that the legislature would not adopt any measure which was in reality inimical (however apparently so) to the progress of science or the welfare of society. Were they to adopt this measure, it would be from its acknowledged utility, and from motives of humanity; it would be with a view to lessen the calamities of the lower orders of society, to whom this measure is chiefly

applicable; for the higher and middle ranks of society are (with a few exceptions) quite satisfied with the beneficial effects of vaccination, and therefore they would not be among the number to oppose its adoption. This measure could by no means be considered compulsory; for although it would prevent an evil of great magnitude, it would not, at the same time, compel the public to adopt vaccination, and therefore could not be considered compulsory. The public would still be at liberty to adopt or reject vaccination, as they pleased. We believe the objectors would be principally interested or prejudiced variolators, and not parents of children, the majority of whom are induced to adopt inoculation, more from the arguments and continued solicitations of the inoculators, than from any natural inclination of their own.

Yet, when we consider how numerous is the class of the poor, we shall find that the number inoculated (those at the small-pox hospitals excepted) is comparatively small, and this is not to be wondered at, if we consider the expence of medical attendance, the fees for inoculation, &c. which, in large families, amounts to something considerable, and puts it out of the power of many who might otherwise accede to its adoption. The same may be said of vaccination, from the benefit of which thousands of the poor are deprived, because they have it not in their power to purchase it. This I know (as do thousands more) from experience; for many parents, I may say the greater part, whose children I vaccinated, did not object to its adoption when told it would cost them nothing. Certainly there were some who had other objections, but I have the pleasure to say, that by a little cool and

rational argument, there were but few with whom I did not succeed in removing them. With respect to the various measures which have been taken to discourage small-pox inoculation, they are certainly judicious so far as they relate; but they are at best only palliatives, as they possess no preventive nor remediable powers whatever. For although in many parts of the kingdom medical practitioners have wholly declined inoculation, yet, in other parts, and even in the metropolis, there are men as active as ever to disseminate the poisonous effluvia; and will, as long as they find the legislature not taking measures to prevent them, (for in reality they have not yet taken such measures) continue to take advantage of their (the legislators) neglect. The most sage advice, and the most rational arguments of bodies legislative and bodies corporate, will have no influence with these prejudiced men, except perhaps to make them more active in working this engine of destruction, which pays them so well for their time and labour. If we consider the advantages and the disadvantages resulting to society from the practice of inoculation, we shall find that the latter much preponderate; that the number of individuals benefited by the practice is comparatively small, and the number injured very great; and since all the measures which have been adopted to remove or lessen the evils consequent to variolation have been, and ever will be, inefficient, it is only by legislative interferance *in totally abolishing the practice of small-pox inoculation* that they ever can be removed. No one can dispute the right or authority of the legislature to adopt such a measure, for no one can dispute its utility. No object can be more important than that relative to the public health.

"Salus populi suprema lex."

No object can be more the interest of the legislature to attend to than that which tends to increase and ameliorate the population—which object they ought to spare no pains to promote and encourage. The public duty of a legislative body is, or at least ought to be, paramount to all personal considerations. Upon a subject of general importance to mankind—upon a subject so important as the preservation of human lives, they ought to be guided in their executive authority solely by the advantages resulting from it to the majority of a people, and not by the advantages resulting to a very small minority—of which minority the greater part are strongly interested or prejudiced persons, whose arguments deserve not the attention of a wise and prudent government.

It is impossible that the legislature (however impartial their conduct) can adopt any measure, however beneficial to mankind in general, which may not prove injurious to the welfare, or inimical to the pecuniary views of some few individuals. But are they to restrain or suppress their authority upon this account? Are they not empowered in case of the most urgent necessity to take coercive measures, when all others have proved inefficient, and particularly in a case where thousands of human lives are at stake, and we may say, entirely depend upon the acknowledgment and execution of such authority? To enforce the adoption of vaccination might be considered a compulsory measure, and would undoubtedly do much mischief to our cause; for the very name of compulsion is so odious to the people of England, accustomed as they are to enjoy their own opinions, and to form their own judgment in matters relative their own health,

that the moment any measures were taken to enforce vaccination, they would immediately set their minds against it, and would not be induced to adopt it one way nor the other. It would therefore be imprudent of the legislature to go further than to prohibit inoculation for small-pox—a measure to which (if they expect to see vaccination become general) they must at last resort. It is much to be lamented, that after this important subject has been so often agitated in the House, and its merits so ably and amply discussed, the legislature should be so reluctant to put in force a measure which would annually preserve thousands of human lives from the ravages of small-pox, which ravages we are certain must continue to exist (in a greater or less degree) until this measure be fully enacted. The fear of its creating new prejudices against the practice of vaccination, instead of removing or lessening the number of existing ones, is only imaginary; for this measure has been adopted by legislative bodies in various countries; and so far from having proved prejudicial to the cause of vaccination, has, on the contrary, contributed much to its success. The objectors will ask, is this any proof that such a measure, was it adopted, would not be productive of ill-consequences in this country—a country of liberty and freedom? They will ask, what are foreign legislators to us? Is their unlimited legislative authority to be a model for us? Is our unparalleled system of government to be made, like theirs, arbitrary? To such questions we readily reply in the negative. But let the objectors recollect, that though we may be too wise to follow the example of foreign legislators, though we may be too wise to make innovations in a system as nearly perfected as possible, yet we may not be too

wise to observe the variations and operations in the systems of other governments, and at the same time to profit by their errors The objectors, when speaking of their own country, when comparing her liberty with the liberty of others, (if liberty they have) will exclaim in this language:—It is here the political horizon shines with such resplendent lustre. It is here, and here only, that the unfortunate who have, or may escape from the grasp of foreign tyranny, can find a sure and safe asylum. It is here they will behold a beneficent sovereign seated upon the pinnacle of power, covering with his ægian shield the interests the most important and the most precious of his people. It is here they may find protection, and enjoy tranquillity and repose, and bid defiance to foreign dominion.—What nation in the universe, save our happy island, can boast of such exalted freedom? What nation, save this, has been able effectually to resist the gigantic career of tyranny, which now threatens with subjugation the whole of civilized Europe? Alas! how many nations have already fallen prostrate at her feet: yes, fallen to receive the dreadful yoke of despotism. But England, imperishable as her glory, still maintains the pre-eminence in the scale of nations. England still is a match for that aspiring power that grasps at universal dominion. England still possesses impenetrable bulwarks, which will ever bid defiance to foreign subjugation, and which will ever mark the boundary of tyranny. But as I am no advocate for digression, and as I have no right here to divine the thoughts of politicians, I will return to my subject.—The objectors will ask, where ought to be the limits of legislative authority? Is there no invariable rule to fix them? or does this depend upon circumstances, &c. Undoubt-

edly there are limits, to go beyond which would be both impolitic and dangerous. To preserve a middle course appears to be the wisest and safest plan; and although in some instances it will be necessary, and even unavoidable, to go beyond this point, yet they (the legislature) must be cautious not to go below it; for if they do, they will be liable to relax and grow languid, and then the consequent evil will be worse, and they will soon find it to be their interest, as well as the interest of the people, to return to their former station, or rather to take one a little higher, which probably will be found the most eligible.

I can see no reason why the measures adopted by legislative bodies in various countries, for the promotion of vaccination, should not be attended with the most beneficial effects if adopted in our own country. They are measures by no means of a compulsory nature. They are measures which do credit to every country that adopts them—measures worthy the adoption of a British legislature. Every rational man must be convinced of the impossibility to exterminate the small-pox, when he considers that if not the proximate, at least the secondary cause of its existence remains, and what is more to be lamented, a cause which it is not difficult to remove. We here allude to the practice of small-pox inoculation, the permission of which will ever blast our utmost endeavours to exterminate that dreadful disease. When we consider the insular position of Great Britain, her maritime ascendency, her admirable quarantine laws, the ability and activity of her medical professors, we are naturally led to conclude that the subjugation of the small pox in this island can be no difficult task. Yet, shocking

to relate, after twelve years have elapsed since the discovery of its antidote, this enemy still besieges us in almost every quarter, and is continually making dreadful havoc among the besieged. He has still strong fortresses, the retention of which he owes to interested individuals in this country, who furnish him with necessary supplies to carry on a destructive warfare, to which it is time to put an end. Let us then consider the means necessary to be taken for his total and speedy subjugation. We must first implore the assistance of the legislature to disarm his auxiliaries, which will cut off his principal resources, and will ultimately compel him to raise the siege. O England! why dost thou not draw up in battle array thy host of legislators, and at once decide the mighty contest.—They will display their invincible arms, and panic-strike the enemy's battalions with the thunder of their artillery. Let it not be said that a British legislature has been out-vied in the defence of this great cause. Let England maintain her seat on the throne in the temple of humanity, and let surrounding nations rank as her enlightened tributaries. How painful must it be to every philanthropist, when he reads the history of the progress of vaccination on the Continent of Europe, its rapid career and almost universal adoption throughout the vast continents of Asia, Africa, and America, to be obliged to learn, that in England, (the country which gave birth to this most glorious of all ancient or modern discoveries) it is making (I had almost said) a retrograde movement. However, if not a retrograde movement, we are, of all nations, the most remote from its general adoption. What has been the cause of this melancholy circumstance?—Must the old proverbs once again be verified—a dis-

covery hath but little merit in the country which gave it birth; a prophet hath but little honour in his own country? They are but too applicable to the present case; for it is notorious that Dr. Jenner is held in but small estimation in this country, when compared to that in which he is held in others. Had this discovery been imported from a foreign nation, it would then, in all probability, have been received with unbounded applause, and almost every individual would have readily acknowledged its great utility. But let us shake off this ancient prejudice; let us not set the less value upon the merits of this brilliant discovery, because it originated amongst us. Let us, on the contrary, upon that account, set a higher encomium upon it; let us ever revere the name of Jenner, and let us be proud of the country which gave him birth. With respect to that almost general apathy which still exists among the lower orders of society against the practice of vaccination, it is to be attributed, in a great degree, to prejudice and ignorance; but, in a much greater degree, to the insidious machinations of its opponents, who leave no means untried to terrify the public, and fill the minds of parents with unnecessary alarms. It would be too tedious a task to analyze the various writings of the anti-vaccinists, many of which are barbarous productions, whose pages are filled with arguments (if arguments they may be called) which are in direct opposition to reason and truth, and repugnant to every sentiment of humanity. It is owing to a jealous rivalry amongst medical professors that so much invective and personal abuse have been displayed in the discussion of this important subject.

A few of the descendants of Æsculapius, who considered themselves the great luminaries that lighted the medical horizon, almost dwindled into obscurity at the appearance of a new luminary, which soon diffused its radiance throughout both hemispheres of the world, and now shines with unrivalled splendour. We will venture to say, that had any one of the violent opponents of vaccination been the fortunate discoverer of this surprising antidote, he would then have written in the language of philanthropy—would have proclaimed this grand discovery as the "magnum Dei donum," (the great gift of God) sent to alleviate the miseries of mankind, and would have justly considered himself the happiest and greatest man in existence. But as Jenner was the favorite whom nature pointed out to reveal this precious secret, so long hidden in the labyrinth of mystery, envy cast her malignant eye upon the fortunate adventurer, and exclaimed, "it is no antidote, but a pest that he hath found." O false exclamation! O bitter invective! ye may triumph over ignorance and prejudice, but wisdom and reason are your irresistible enemies. But if these sons of Æsculapius will still continue to write in defiance of truth and reason, against this salutary innovation in the healing art, let them write with moderation and candour, and not with pens dipped in gall—in language teeming with satire and falsehood. If Providence hath endowed them with talent, they ought to employ it to dissipate the clouds of ignorance and prejudice, and not to make it the electrical agent that holds them suspended, by which mankind are deprived of the benefit of the light that would otherwise illuminate the world. The Jennerian discovery was not (like many of the modern discoveries, and the

boasted nostrums of stately empirics) ushered into the world with the hypocritical language of empiricism, to deceive the ignorant and credulous, but was openly and disinterestedly promulgated for the good of mankind, and humbly submitted to the medical tribunal for critical analysis. The Royal College of Physicians in London readily investigated the important subject, and as readily published the result of their inquiries, which was sufficient to satisfy every rational and unprejudiced man, and even to set scepticism itself at defiance.—But to return.

By the abolishment of small-pox inoculation, by clerical influence, and by the establishment of vaccine depots in various places, by which the benefits of vaccination have been distributed to the poor gratis, the small-pox has been, in many countries, quite exterminated. These three potent measures combined would, with perseverance, soon exterminate this human scourge from the whole globe.

Were we to be so fortunate as to live to that happy epoch (but which I doubt is reserved for a future generation), even then, when this grand adversary of mankind shall have retired beneath the veil of mystery, even then the co-operation and perpetual existence of these measures will be equally indispensable. For should this enemy suspend his intercourse with mankind for ages, and be known only by name, posterity would be wise to profit in the interval: they would be wise to adopt the same precautious measures which were necessary during his existence; lest in neglecting so doing he should, by any unforeseen accident, once again return and seize the sceptre of death, and carry

desolation and pestilence throughout all the nations of the word. Let us picture to ourselves into what a dreadful dilemma mankind would be thrown by this regeneration of our adversary, and what would be the result? Elated with the idea that he would no more exist, and that no precaution was further necessary, they find, alas! that their hopes were too sanguine, and were built upon a foundation too uncertain. Alas! they have the melancholy tidings to learn that he is once again in existence, and that he is seeking his ancient traces, and woe be to them who are not prepared for his coming. Let each succeeding generation learn by tradition the name and the discovery of Jenner, and let each of them profit by the wisdom of those who lived at the memorable epoch when that glorious discovery was announced to mankind.

With respect to clerical influence, no one can dispute its utility; and to the credit of many of the clergy be it said, that they have not only pleaded the cause of vaccination in language pregnant with philanthropy, but have, like watchful pastors, guarded and preserved their flocks from the attacks of a ravaging enemy. They have condescended to vaccinate gratuitously the poor of their respective places, and thus have rendered an infinite service to numbers of their fellow-creatures. Was vaccination thus vindicated and thus supported throughout the British empire, then soon, and very soon, should we have to hail that auspicious day on which we might boast of the total annihilation of the small-pox, and might exclaim of that long-reigning enemy—thou fiend of mankind—thou destroyer of human lives and of human happi-

ness—thou thyself art at last destroyed, and only thy despicable name remains.

Many vaccinists, although they acknowledge the utility of clerical influence, think that its limits ought to be prescribed—that is to say, that the clergy would contribute more to promote the cause of vaccination, by publicly endeavouring to remove the prejudices and religious scruples which exist against it among the uninformed, than by practising vaccination themselves. For although their officious endeavours are highly praise-worthy, yet except they sufficiently understand the subject, that is to say, be well acquainted with many important, though considered unimportant minutiæ, they will be liable to make some errors, and thus unintentionally bring this invaluable practice into unmerited disrepute. Far be it from the vaccinists to state these hints from the slightest disrepect to that learned body, or to insinuate that there are not many of them well acquainted with Dr. Jenner's history of the vaccine disease; they only expressed a wish that no individual would undertake to practice vaccination without having previously studied the work of Dr. Jenner, or some other accurate writer upon the subject. The vaccinists feel themselves much indebted to the clergy for the great assistance which they have rendered to the cause of vaccination, and they hope that the clergy of every denomination will endeavour, in the discharge of their professional duties, in a way which they may think the most eligible, to instil into the minds of the people the great utility and importance of vaccine inoculation. It appears unnecessary to dwell any longer upon the subject. However, to speak in a few words, one thing is certain, that with-

out the co-operation of legislative and clerical authority the practice of vaccination will never, in this or any other country, become generally adopted; that without the united and continued efforts of these two powerful agents we fear it cannot stand, and with which we think it cannot fall: we therefore hope that this enlightened country, which gave birth to its illustrious discoverer, will adopt such measures as may appear further necessary to render the practice of vaccination at least as general in this as it is in other parts of the world.

In reading the various writings of the anti-vaccinists, the most superficial observer, the most careless critic, can easily perceive that they speak the language of disappointment, the language of despair: they lament to see that their favourite practice of variolous inoculation, which has so long displayed its deleterious influence, has passed the zenith of its power, and must soon finally cease to struggle against its adversary. The anti-variolists, on the contrary, can speak the language of success, the language of confidence: they rejoice that the happy epoch has arrived in which mankind may be liberated from a detestable malady, a pestilential scourge, which has ever been the terror and the enemy of all nations. The anti-vaccinists thought to give a fatal blow to the cause of vaccination, by saying that vaccination afforded only a temporary security against the small-pox, and they might have further said that our existence is only temporary; but as that temporary security suffices for our temporary existence, we are not so unreasonable as to require any thing more. Let the anti-vaccinists write as much as they please, and as long as they please—let

them employ all the art which imagination can devise to prejudice the public against the salutary and humane practice of vaccination, we shall ever consider it as our duty, as a duty which we owe to our fellow-creatures, to vindicate so glorious a cause; we shall ever be ready at all times, and on all occasions, to come forward and exert ourselves in the cause of suffering humanity, and to stem the over-whelming torrent of error and wilful falsehood.

*FINIS.*

*Bacon, Kinnebrook, and Co. Printers, Norwich.*